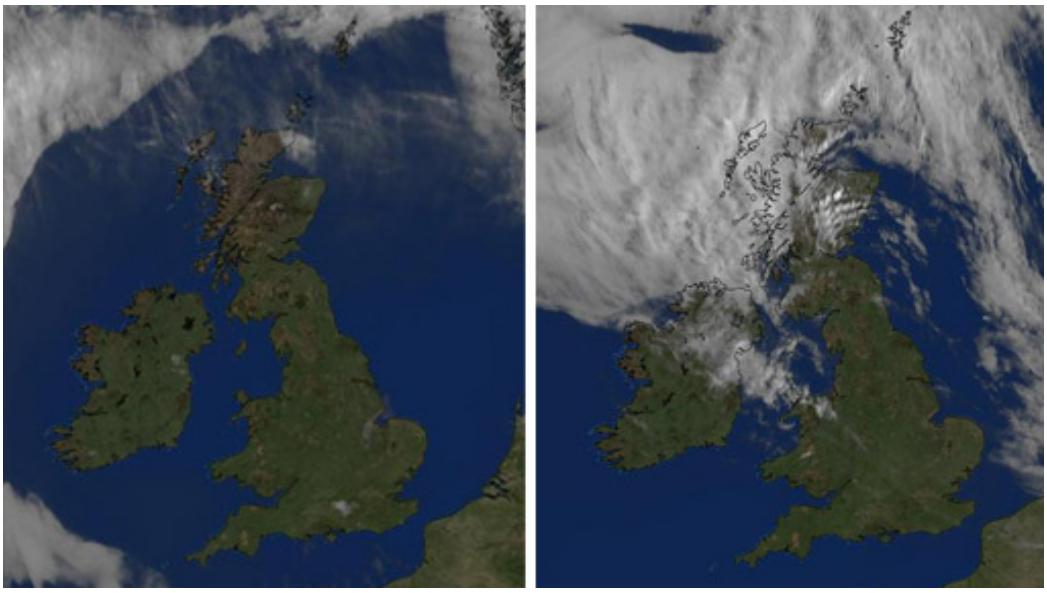
Is it really going to snow?

Description

Over the last few days the UK has been under the influence of high pressure giving us plenty of sunshine and record breaking temperatures but also overnight frosts in places. This weekend sees a gradual return to weather we would normally expect for the time of year.



Visible satellite images at 0900 GMT for 26 March 2012 (left) and 28 March (right) showing cloud slowly increasing from the northwest

Temperatures will return to the low teens during Saturday and Sunday as winds become north-westerly and bring in colder air from the Arctic. We will also get more in the way of cloud and perhaps a little rain too, although this will mostly be confined to the northern half of the UK. Some newspapers have made a lot of the potential for snow as we head through the weekend and into next week. Although this is possible it should be pointed out that any snow will be mostly over the tops of the Scottish hills and mountains, where a few snow showers are possible but no sizeable accumulations are expected. By Monday, even parts of the Pennines may see a dusting of snow over the peaks.

Although the chance of some snow flurries is a marked change to the weather of the last week or so, it is certainly not unusual for this time of year. In fact you are more likely to see snow at Easter than you are at Christmas in the British Isles.

The southern half of the country is likely to remain dry with sunny spells over the next few days but some light rain is on the cards by mid-week.

Here, Chief Forecaster Anthony Astbury explains how the weather is going to change from the recent warm sunshine to much colder conditions with night frosts as we head towards Easter.

For the latest forecast for your area, visit our new refreshed website.

Date Created
March 2012

The Met Office and space weather

Description

The Met Office is commonly associated with producing forecasts for Earth. However, since February 2011, we have been working in partnership with the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the British Geological Survey (BGS) to develop a UK-based space weather forecasting service that will monitor the way the Sun's matter and energy changes and then predicts how these changes are likely to affect the Earth's environment.

The Sun is constantly moving and changing and often throws out large eruptions of plasma called Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) which can cause geomagnetic storms and send currents through power lines if they track towards and reach the Earth. These can then damage transformers and entire power grids. CMEs can also disrupt high frequency radio communications and GPS.

The last major geomagnetic storm affected Quebec, Canada on 13 March 1989 when six million people were plunged into darkness as their power grid failed.

The Met Office Hazard Centre currently has forecasters trained in space weather forecasting, and awareness is being raised across different industry sectors to make them aware of their potential vulnerability and how we can help lessen the risks.

On a slightly different note, many universities are currently using the expertise from the Met Office by utilising our Unified Model of global weather to "forecast the weather" on planets outside of our Solar System, or "exoplanets". This is not something that the Met Office is independently producing but we are working in partnership with academic and research groups to help them understand how atmospheres react on planets which have different gravitational fields and gases, for example.

More information can be found about space weather in our online magazine, Barometer.

Date Created

March 2012

Met Office scientists to feature in BBC Horizon programme ‘Global Weirding’

Description

BBC Horizon will broadcast ‘Global Weirding’ on BBC Two tonight at 9pm, exploring the science behind why the world’s weather seems to be getting more extreme and if these patterns are a taste of what is to come.

Horizon say: “Something weird seems to be happening to our weather – it appears to be getting more extreme. In the past few years we have shivered through two record-breaking cold winters and parts of the country have experienced intense droughts and torrential floods. It is a pattern that appears to be playing out across the globe. Hurricane chasers are recording bigger storms and in Texas, record-breaking rain has been followed by record-breaking drought.

“Horizon follows the scientists who are trying to understand what’s been happening to our weather and investigates if these extremes are a taste of what’s to come.”

The producers of the programme visited the Met Office headquarters and Operations Centre in Exeter to film for the programme at the end of last year, interviewing Adam Scaife, Head of Monthly to Decadal Forecasting and Helen Chivers, a Met Office Forecaster. In the programme we discuss the science being undertaken here at the Met Office into the effects of Climate Change on ourt weather including the effects of Arctic sea ice depletion on European winter weather, and our role in forecasting extreme weather for the UK.

Adam Scaife and Helen Chivers from the Met Office appear in the programme

Other contributors to the programme include Mike Lockwood (University of Reading) on solar observations, Kerry Emmanuel (MIT) on hurricanes and Katharine Hayhoe (Texas Tech University) on extreme wet and dry conditions in Texas.

This weeks Radio Times also previewed the programme saying:

“This week’s Very Big Number from Horizon: the Met Office’s computer can do one hundred trillion calculations — a second. It needs to, in order to process the gouts of data gathered from satellites, data which means, we’re told, that a five-day forecast today is as accurate as a one-day forecast was 30 years ago. (Were we so long-suffering in 1982?)

“All this technology isn’t to feed some quaint British obsession with weather, it’s to keep track of increasingly freakish extremes in meteorology, not just here but around the world: from record rains in Scotland to droughts in Texas and a boom in hurricanes. Scientists are trying to get to grips with it all and Horizon follows them, in one amazing scene, right into the heart of the storm.”

Date Created
March 2012

What's causing the warm weather in the UK?

Description

Temperatures continue to break records across parts of the UK. Cromdale in Moray reached 23.2 deg C on Monday breaking the record set the day before for the warmest March day in Scotland.

Following on from our post yesterday 'Why is it so warm?' we have put together a video explaining the meteorological reasons behind this fine spring weather. We also provide an outlook for the rest of the week.

Related articles

- Scotland Enjoys Record-Breaking Temperatures (news.sky.com)
- Why is it so warm? (metofficenews.wordpress.com)
- National News: Warm UK weather set to continue (coventrytelegraph.net)
- National News: Record warm weather set to continue (coventrytelegraph.net)
- Britons bask in record warm weather – icLanarkshire – East Kilbride News (eastkilbridenews.co.uk)
- National News: Britons bask in record warm weather (coventrytelegraph.net)
- Britain's warm weather to continue (itv.com)
- UK warm weather: Britain will bask in sunshine until Wednesday but back to normal at weekend (dailymail.co.uk)

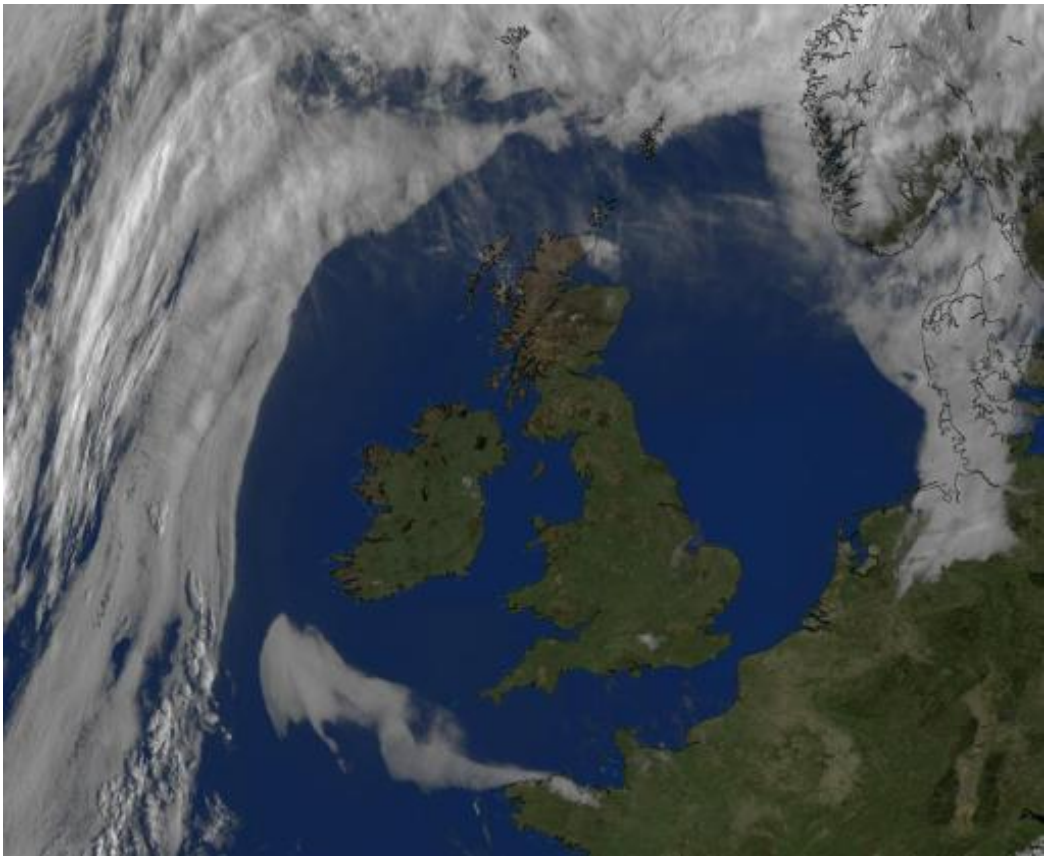
Date Created
March 2012

Why is it so warm?

Description

The last few days have been unseasonably warm but why is this happening so early in the year? The answer lies largely in the air flow directly above the United Kingdom but more importantly where that air has come from.

Over the last week or so we have been under the influence of high pressure which has given us very settled conditions, with light winds and a lot of sunshine. During the daytime, the sun has injected plenty of warmth and the light south to south-easterly winds have drawn further warm air towards us from continental Europe.

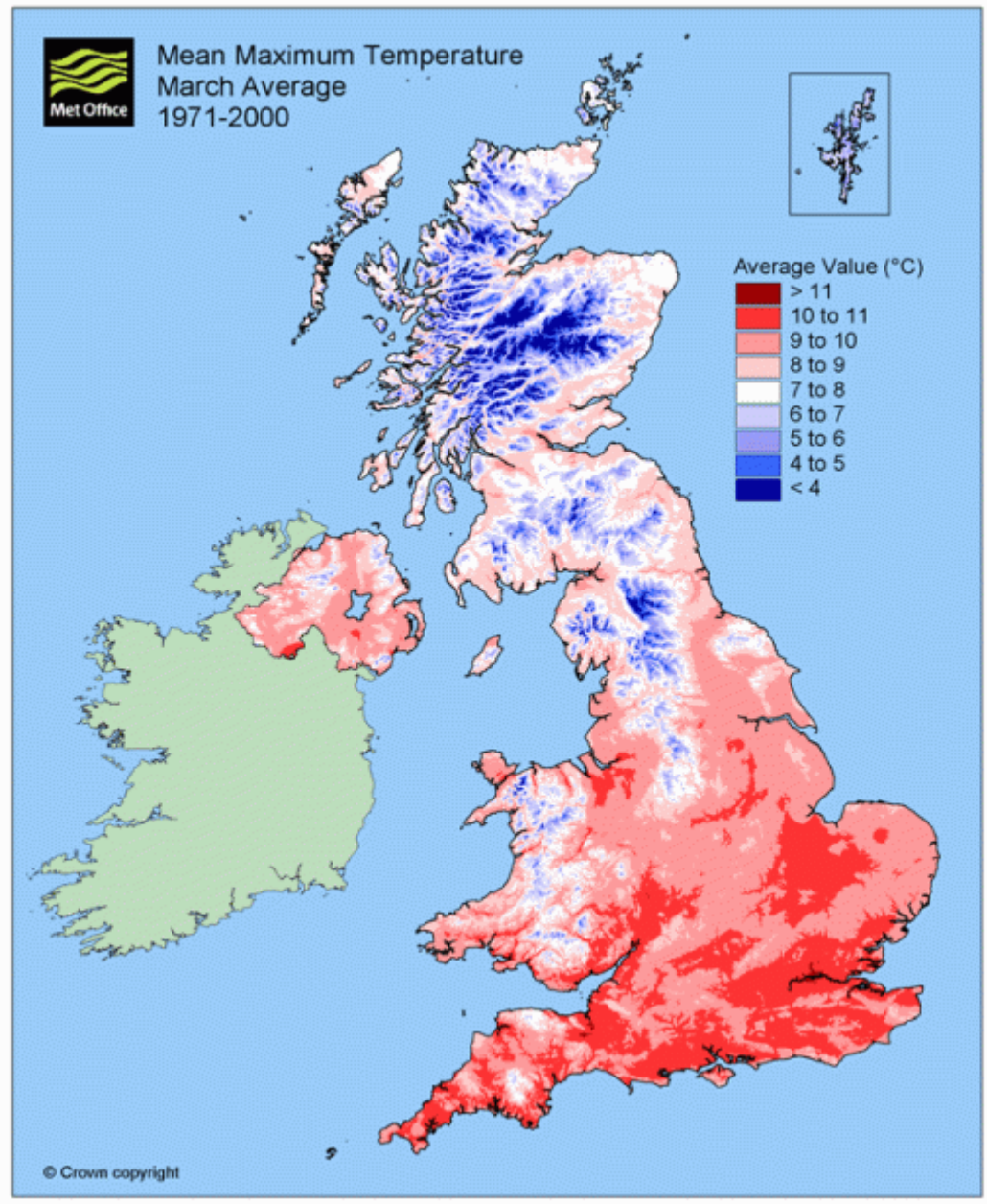


UK visible satellite image from 0900 GMT 26 March 2012. Source: Met Office/EUMETSAT

We would normally expect average maximum temperatures in March to edge into double figures across the south of the country and stay much cooler further north. However, over the last few days temperatures have reached the low twenties and we have seen a new record high for Scotland in March as the temperature reached 22.8 °C at Fyvie Castle in Aberdeenshire on Sunday 25 March and temperatures are expected to reach similar values over the next couple of days.

The last time we had a comparable warm spell in March was during 2005 between the 16th and 26th when temperatures reached 21.8 °C at Kew Gardens on the 19th. Before that we have to go back to

1968 and 1965 when two shorter spells (which coincidentally both happened for the same two-day period in March, from 29th to 30th) saw highs of 25.6 °C at Mepal, Cambridgeshire and 25.0 °C in Wakefield respectively, both on the 29th.



Average maximum temperatures for March.

The settled and clear conditions by day continue during the night time and allow much of the sun's energy to escape from the earth's surface back into the atmosphere, allowing temperatures to fall quickly after dusk. So, in contrast to the warm, sunny days, the nights are clear and cool, especially this time of year. Although we are seeing temperatures reaching in excess of 20 °C by day, we have seen overnight minima fall below freezing in some areas and many of us are waking up to frosty mornings. With light winds, mist or fog patches are also likely to form.

The weather forecast for the next few days remains settled and warm for much of the country with temperatures in the high teens or low twenties. But later in the week, the area of high pressure will drift to the west of the UK and allow a northerly wind to bring in more cloud and cooler air to all parts, with

the chance of a few showers.

Date Created
March 2012

Citizen science looks at future warming uncertainty

Description

A project running almost 10,000 climate simulations on volunteers' home computers has found that a global warming of 3 degrees Celsius by 2050 is 'equally plausible' as a rise of 1.4 degrees.

The study addresses some of the uncertainties that previous forecasts, using simpler models or only a few dozen simulations, may have over-looked.

Importantly, the forecast range is derived from using a complex Met Office model that accurately reproduces observed temperature changes over the last 50 years.

The results suggest that the world is very likely to cross the '2 degrees barrier' at some point this century if emissions continue unabated.

It also suggests that those planning for the impacts of climate change need to consider the possibility of warming of up to 3 degrees (above the 1961-1990 average) by 2050, even on a mid-range emission scenario. This is a faster rate of warming than most other models predict.

The research was made possible because volunteers donated time to run the simulations on their home computers through climateprediction.net as part of the BBC Climate Change Experiment. A report of the research is published in *Nature Geoscience*.

"It's only by running such a large number of simulations – with model versions deliberately chosen to display a range of behaviour – that you can get a handle on the uncertainty present in a complex system such as our climate," said Dr Dan Rowlands of Oxford University's Department of Physics, lead author of the paper. "Our work was only possible because thousands of people donated their home computer time to run these simulations."

Dr Ben Booth, Senior Climate Scientist at the Met Office Hadley Centre, an author of the paper, said: "There have been substantial efforts within the international community to quantify and understand the consequence of climate uncertainties for future projections. Perhaps the most ambitious effort to date, this work illustrates how the citizen science movement is making an important contribution to this field."

The model used in the project was supplied by the Met Office and the work was supported by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), the European Union FP6 WATCH and ENSEMBLES projects, the Oxford Martin School, the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment, and Microsoft Research.

You can see this research covered here:

ABC Australia

USA Today

BBC

Date Created
March 2012

World Meteorological Day

Description

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the worldwide meteorological community celebrate World Meteorological Day on 23 March. This year the theme is “Powering our future with weather, climate and water”.

World Meteorological Day 2012 - Powering our future with weather, climate and water

As a world leader in weather, climate and science, the Met Office delivers various products and services to the UK and across the globe, supporting the general public, government and local authorities, the armed forces, civil aviation, media, transport, utilities and most of the industry sector.

From the collection of data around the world, to its processing and analysis, the Met Office provides bespoke weather and climate predictions for specialist customers, and adds value to forecasts for commercial, defence and aviation customers.

Similarly, climate monitoring enables the Met Office to examine and interpret climate variations and change. This is done throughout the atmosphere, oceans and the cryosphere (ice), which enable us to develop predictions of our future climate change. This means that we can plan ahead and explore the impacts of climate change on Earth and human systems such as; water resources, agriculture, ecosystems, health and energy.

From heatwaves to periods of extreme rainfall, the weather can have a significant impact on the water

industry. The Met Office is able to forecast the demand for water in a particular area based on this relationship. By working with the Environment Agency and the Flood Forecasting Centre, we have been able to produce a more in-depth knowledge of how different parts of the United Kingdom respond to rainfall, whether it is a fast responding urban catchment or a low-lying rural location with a greater capability to store water.

Weather, climate and water have moulded, shaped and changed our world in the past and it is more important than ever to look forward and understand how they might change things in the future.

Date Created
March 2012

Met Office in the Media: 20 March 2012

Description

There has been widespread coverage of a scientific paper detailing an update to the joint Met Office Hadley Centre and University of East Anglia, HadCRUT global temperature dataset. The paper is published in the Journal of Geophysical Research.

Compiled from temperature observations obtained over land and sea, HadCRUT is used as a basis for a global temperature record going back to 1850. The latest version of the dataset, called HadCRUT4, includes newly available data – notably adding much more information from the sparsely observed northern higher latitude region. Differences in the way sea surface temperature observations have been collected have been taken account of and the new version also provides much more detail on uncertainty.

The amendments do not change the long-term trend. Annual global mean temperature record under HadCRUT3 and HadCRUT4 can be found on the Met Office website.

The BBC reported on the 'Update for world temperature data', while the Telegraph reported 'World warmed even more in last ten years than previously thought when Arctic data added'. Elsewhere the Mail Online reported that 'New temperature record confirms world HAS warmed 0.75C since 1900'. Other reports included the Herald, Scotsman, ClickGreen and the New York Times.

The Telegraph and CCRMagazine.com have written about the Government publication of the Terms of Reference for the Data Strategy Board & the Public Data Group. The Met Office, as part of the Public Data Group, with Ordnance Survey, Land Registry and Companies House is already making data available allowing the public and businesses access to our data that will allow it to be re-used and repackaged.

Real-time weather observation and forecast datasets made available for the first time by the Met Office in November are an example of the kind of data that will promote the creation of high-value businesses, while widening the marketplace and empowering the individual citizen. Following this Golfmagic.com reports on how Marriot Golf has launched a new app which has Met Office weather forecasts embedded into the App.

In other news the BBC reports on the British team that is developing a car that will capable of reaching 1,000mph. The Met Office is supporting Bloodhound SSC (SuperSonic Car), by providing scientific monitoring of the weather ahead of any record attempt. The Mail Online and the Observer both report on the inclusion of Space Weather in the National Risk Register. The Met Office is working with partners in the UK and the US on developing an operational space weather service.

Related articles

- Update for world temperature data (BBC)

- World warmed even more in last ten years than previously thought when Arctic data added (Telegraph)
- New temperature record confirms world HAS warmed 0.75C since 1900 (Daily Mail)
- Bombshell: After Fixing Errors, UK Met Office Says 2010, 2005 Hottest Years on Record, World Warming Faster Than Thought (thinkprogress.org)
- Climate, truth and integrity, part two (learningfromdogs.com)

Date Created
March 2012

Blog about fog: why has fog been so persistent this week?

Description

Foggy weather has been especially persistent this week, not clearing all day in some areas of the UK.

Fog forms when relatively moist and mild air close to the ground cools quickly, causing the moisture in the air to condense (at which point it becomes visible to the human eye). This normally happens in autumn and winter under clear skies, which allows heat from the ground to escape quickly to cause rapid temperature drops.

Over the last few days winds have been light with an area of high pressure sitting rather stubbornly over the UK. This creates the ideal conditions for fog to form. As the fog is so dense in places the temperature has not been warm enough to cause the fog to evaporate, such as in more western parts yesterday. However in eastern parts both yesterday and today the sun has got to work quite quickly on the fog, either lifting it into low cloud or breaking holes in it and eventually clearing it completely.

The fog is expected to clear today, with more changable weather on the way over the next few days. Keep up to date with your local forecast for the latest.

If you want to find out more about fog, have a look at our fog blog, ‘what is fog?‘ or our water in the atmosphere factsheet.

Date Created
March 2012

Carol Kirkwood picks up fourth TRIC award

Description

Met Office broadcaster Carol Kirkwood has been named as the UK's best TV weather presenter by the Television and Radio Industries Club for a fourth time.

Carol joined the Met Office weather team at the BBC in 1998 and is best known for her weather presenting during morning television on BBC Breakfast but also works for the BBC News Channel, BBC One and, more recently, the Great British Weather show.

Carol said: "This is the jewel in the crown of a fantastic start to the year, which has included presenting to Her Majesty the Queen, and the Sandringham Women's Institute in January. I'm privileged to work within so many fantastic teams from the forecasters at the Met Office to BBC Weather and BBC Breakfast"

The Met Office in association with BBC Weather provide more than 120 weather broadcasts a day and more than 1,000 hours of television and radio each year – with forecasts for the whole world.

Date Created
March 2012

Climate Week gets underway with Met Office as science advisor

Description

Tyrone Dunbar, is a Met Office scientist currently seconded to Defra and DECC in support of our role in providing policy relevant science to Government. In this guest blog he talks about Climate Week.

> This week is Climate Week, and there are thousands of climate week related events happening all over the UK. I've just had a quick look at the website and there are 2802 registered events shown on their interactive map, so there's absolutely loads of stuff going on (I'll be honest, I was surprised how many events have been organised!).
>
> The week officially kicked off on Sunday with a launch event at Lancaster House in London. There was a wide range of inspiring projects on display, from innovative projects such as drought-resistant maize which helps farmers in Africa adapt to climate change, to campaigns such as the Sustainable Restaurant Association's Too Good to Waste "doggy box" promotion. There was also the fantastic news that Defra and HR Wallingford won the award for Best Initiative by a Government or Statutory Body for their work on the Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). The Met Office were also involved in the CCRA, providing scientific guidance on the latest climate projections (UKCP09) that underpin the study, leading on the risk assessment for the Energy Sector and provided further research on urban heat islands and rainfall runoff.
>
> The Met Office is the official science advisor for Climate Week and we have a number of things going on as well. There was a Met Office stand at the launch event, and we have a poster display in the atrium at the Department for International Development (DfID) running throughout the week highlighting various climate change issues as well as Met Office research, such as forecasting of the onset of the rainy season in East Africa. This has been really well received and DfID will be sending this exhibition to posts around the world. We are also running a Climate Challenge competition in some local Tesco stores in Devon (Tesco are the main Climate Week sponsors), as you can see in the picture below.

You can find out more about the role of the Met Office as one of the worlds leading centres for climate science research in the climate change section of our website.

Related articles

- Met Office recognised as world-leading by Science and Technology Select Committee (MetOffice News Blog)
- Kevin Steele: Leadership on Climate Change: There's a Vacancy for a Celebrity Standard Bearer (huffingtonpost.co.uk)

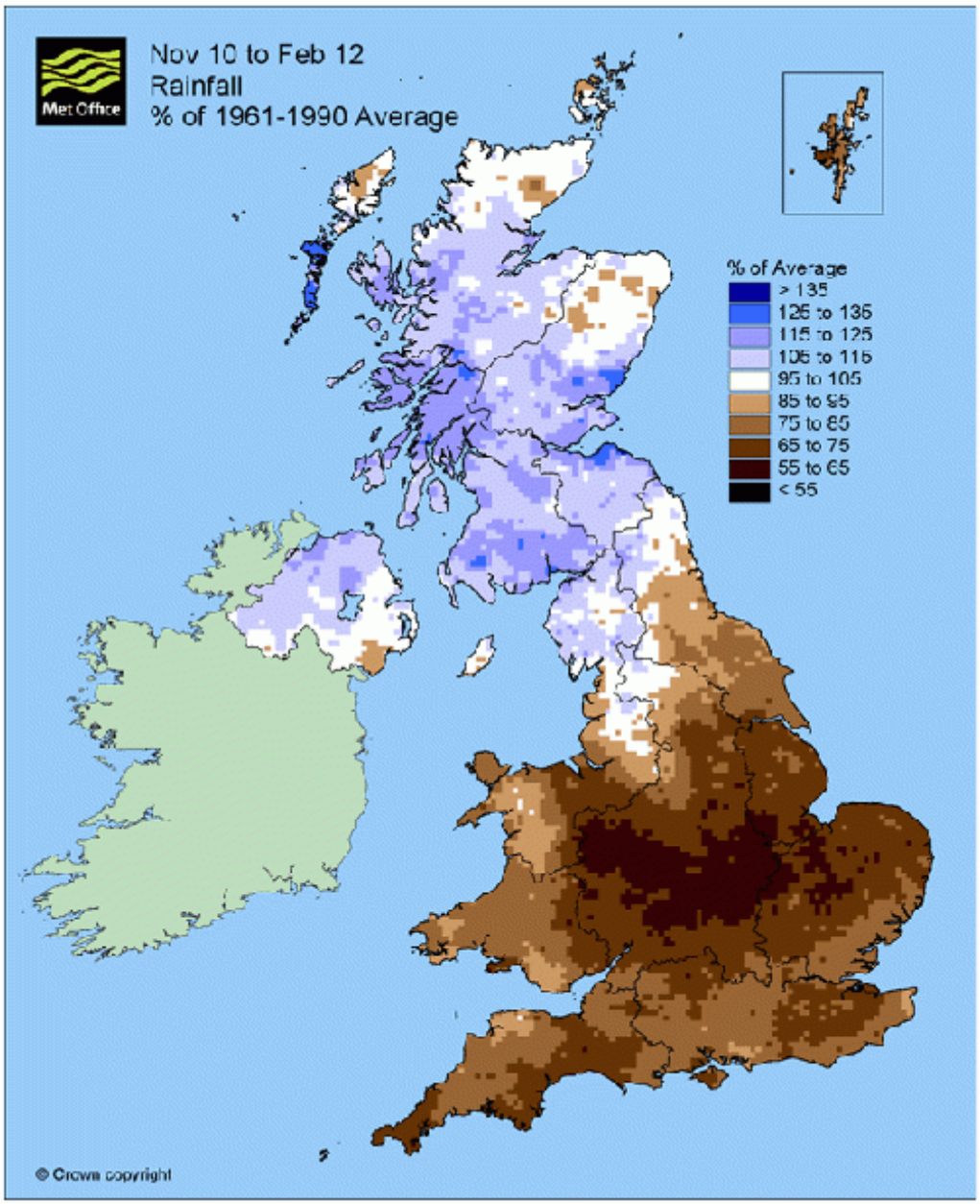
Date Created
March 2012

Why are we in drought?

Description

Rainfall amounts across many parts of the UK have been below average for the last two years. Importantly, this includes two dry winters – the periods when we would normally expect our rainfall to replenish river, reservoir and groundwater levels.

2010 was the eleventh-driest year in the series from 1910 and the driest since 2003. The dry weather continued during 2011 with large parts of central, eastern and southern England having well below average rainfall – several Midland counties – such as Shropshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Warwickshire – had their driest year on record.



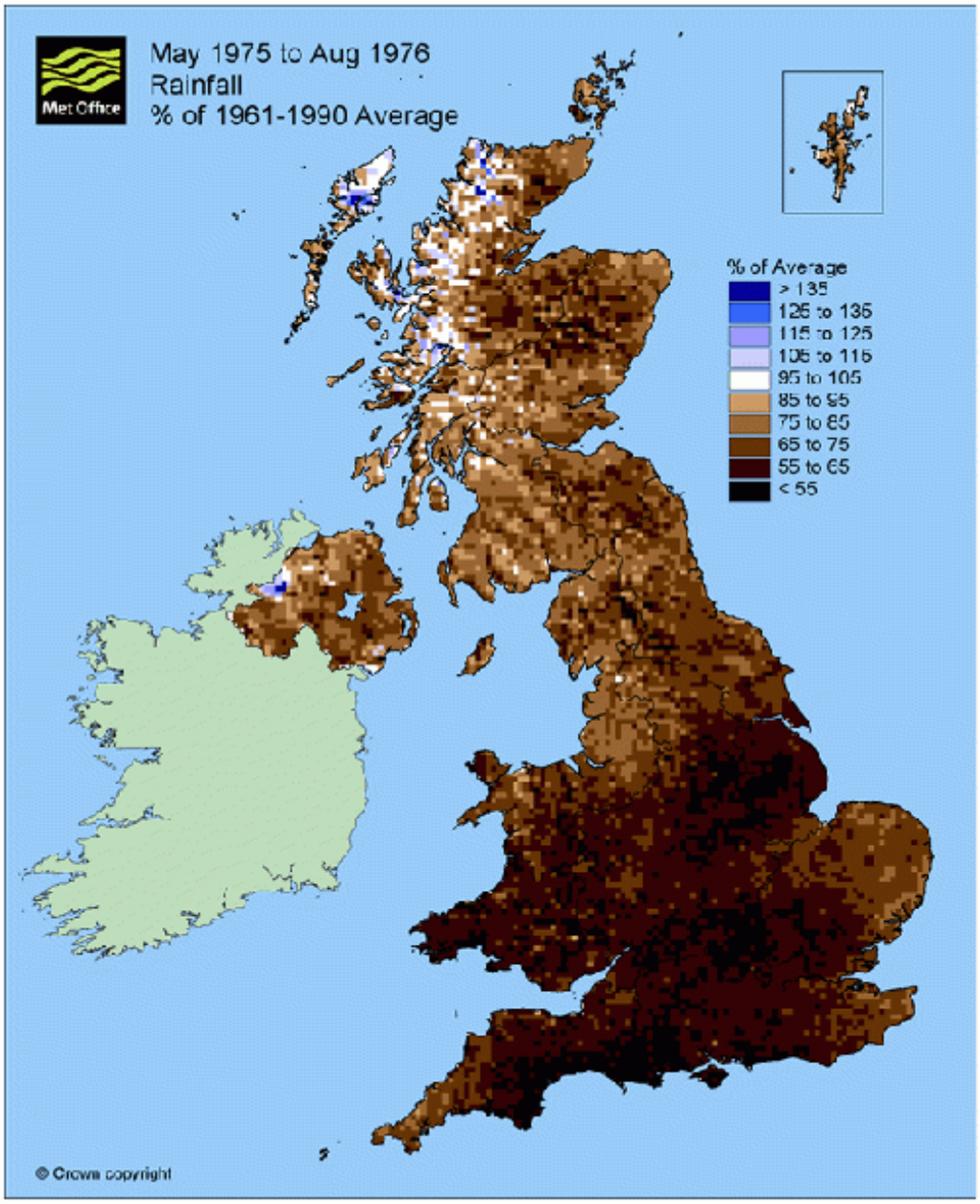
Map showing the rainfall seen between Nov 2010 and Feb 2012 compared to the long-term average for the same period

This emphasises why there are concerns about drought in parts of England and Wales.

There is no one reason for the dry weather over the last few years; it's all part of the natural variability of the UK climate. However the dominance of high pressure systems over Europe has been a significant influence. These areas of high pressure effectively block the path of the Atlantic weather systems that bring us our usual wind and rain and this has happened relatively frequently over the last couple of years.

Looking back to the drought of 1976 we can see that in contrast to this year, the whole of the UK was subject to a prolonged period of below average rainfall. Between May 1975 and Aug 1976 only parts of the Western Isles and Western Highlands saw rainfall even a little above normal. Many parts of

England and Wales saw only half or less of the rainfall that we could normally expect in that time.



Map showing the rainfall seen between May 1975 and Aug 1976 compared to the long-term average for the same period.

This table shows how much rainfall fell across the UK in 1975-76 compared to 2010-12:

Region/district	May 75-Aug 76 total (mm)	% of 61-90 average	Nov 10-Feb 12 total (mm)	% of 61-90 average
UK	1018	72	1502	99
England	689	64	929	82
Wales	1097	62	1658	84

Scotland	1527	82	2386	117
Northern Ireland	1098	78	1638	108
England & Wales	745	64	1030	82
N England	855	69	1212	94
S England	601	60	780	74
N Scotland	1742	86	2564	114
E Scotland	1062	74	1730	113
W Scotland	1734	83	2843	123
E & NE England	666	67	901	88
NW England & N Wales	1160	71	1690	96
Midlands	622	61	780	74
East Anglia	524	65	579	72
SW England & S Wales	907	59	1383	81
Central S & SE England	584	59	824	78

We are working closely with the Environment Agency, Government, local authorities and water companies to ensure that the UK best manages the need for water, while protecting agriculture, horticulture and the environment.

Our role includes providing forecast information to the public; government and the water companies on when, and how much rain, is expected from the next few days to a month ahead. We also maintain observations of how much rainfall there has been and where. This can be compared with our historical database of rainfall, which goes back to 1910, to provide an understanding of the current rainfall situation. The Met Office also provides the UK's only real-time assessments of rainfall, evaporation and soil moisture for water resource specialists.

Rob Varley, Operations Director at the Met Office, said: "The last two years have been very dry across many parts of England with some areas seeing as little as 60% of their normal rainfall in that time.

"Even sustained rainfall over the next few months would have a limited impact, however we are working with the water industry to make sure they have the best weather forecast information available to help them manage their resources."

Howard Davidson, Environment Agency South East Regional Director said: "We will continue to work with water companies to meet the challenges of a continued drought.

"The Environment Agency's role is to balance the water needs of people, businesses and the environment. Using water efficiently will help to ensure we all have enough water for our homes, to produce food, products and services, and to protect our valuable natural environment and wildlife."

Related articles:

- Drought (Met Office website)
- What is a drought? (Centre for Ecology and Hydrology website)
- Drought (Environment Agency website)

Date Created
March 2012

Met Office iPhone app success continues

Description

The success of the Met Office iPhone app continues with it making it into the Top 25 All-Time Free Apps, published by Apple.

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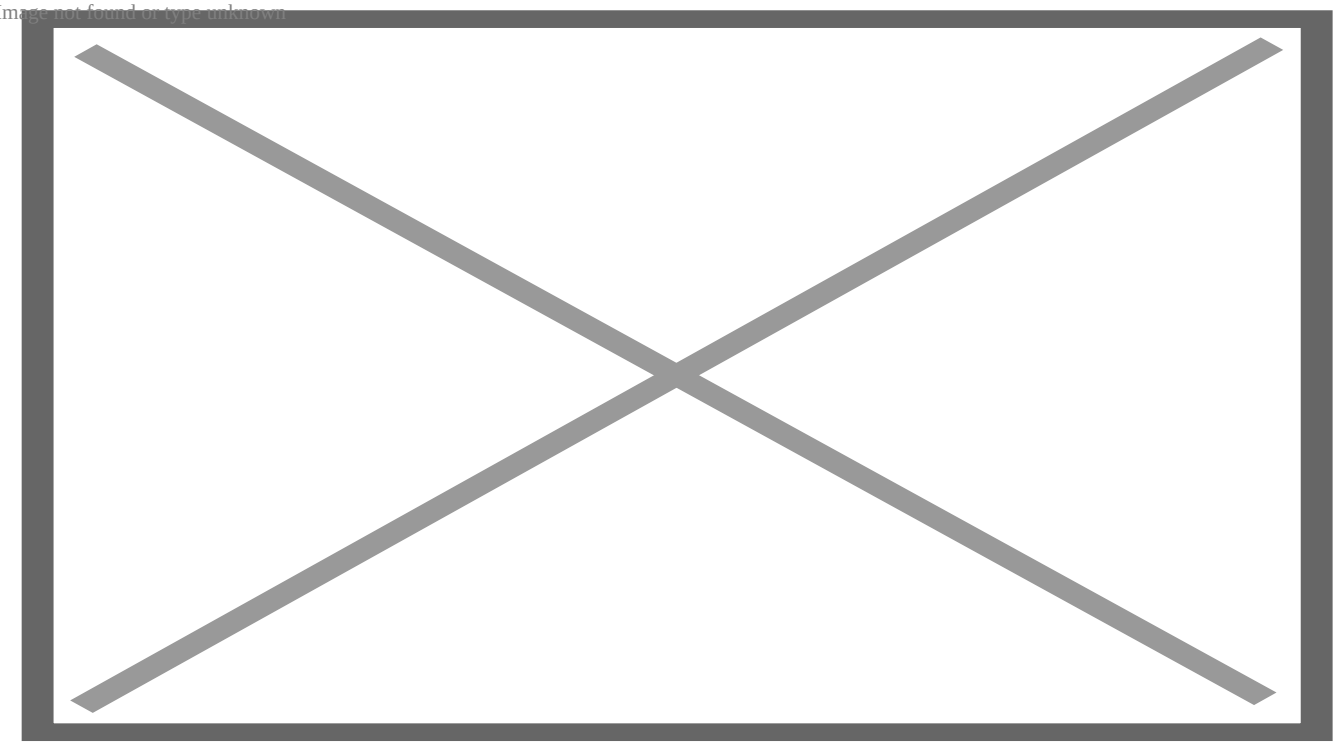

The Met Office app, no 21 in the list, is the only weather app to make it into the top 25.

Re-launched just 6 weeks ago, the app has already been downloaded over 1.3 million times. During the recent cold weather the app was used over six and a half million times, or over 35 times every second, as people kept up to date with Met Office forecasts and warnings.

Our iPhone app is also the only weather app to have been chosen as one of the top 60 apps by staff at Carphone Warehouse ahead of the Carphone Warehouse Appys taking place later this spring.

Derrick Ryall, Head of Public Weather Service at the Met Office said: “We are absolutely delighted that iPhone users across the UK have found the Met Office App so useful, both for keeping up to date with the latest weather forecast and allowing them to make informed weather dependent decisions. “

The updated iPhone App now includes 3 hourly forecasts out to 5 days ahead, UV forecast maps and information on the likelihood of rain or snow. In addition to the iPhone, we also provide an App for Andriod phones and Smarter Weather for other smart phones.

Date Created
March 2012

Space Weather brings potential geomagnetic storm to Earth

Description

There has been an increase in activity on the Sun over recent days with a number of Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs) taking place. A high energy X Ray flare was released from the Sun early this morning, and this has sent a very fast CME towards the Earth at speeds up to 2000 km per second. At present this is expected to reach the Earth from Thursday morning.

Working with our partners at the British Geological Survey (BGS), through the Hazard Centre at the Met Office, we have provided advice on the nature of this event so that government and industry can take steps to mitigate the potential impacts a geomagnetic storm may bring, for example to the airline and power supply industries.

Solar Storm Eruption: Coronal Mass Ejection Headed for Earth (Animation courtesy of NOAA)

The impact of this will mainly be in terms of a geomagnetic storm on Earth and we understand some airlines may re-direct flights from polar routes and that the power supply industry may take routine mitigation steps.

This solar event may also increase the chances of seeing the aurora borealis or Northern Lights in the UK. Further information on Viewing Northern Lights in the UK can be obtained from the BGS.

At the governmental level UK Prime Minister David Cameron and US President Barack Obama have welcomed the growing partnership between the Met Office and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service towards the delivery of space weather advice and alerts. A memorandum was signed between the Met Office and NOAA in February 2011.

The Met Office, as part of its Natural Hazards Partnership, is working with the BGS on developing a space weather capability. We have recently become a member of the International Space Innovation Centre (ISIC) where a major focus of our activities will be around the influence of solar events on the earth and its surroundings.

Related articles

- Northern Lights over the UK (Met Office News Blog)
- Space Weather Alert – 7th March 2011 (BGS)
- Viewing Northern Lights in the UK (BGS)

Date Created
March 2012

Supporting the Institute for Animal Health on the Schmallenberg Virus

Description

The Met Office is working closely with the Institute for Animal Health (IAH) at Pirbright, Defra and the Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (AHVLA) to provide advice on the possible wind-borne spread of the Schmallenberg Virus.

It is believed that the virus is carried by midges. Although the prevailing winds in Britain are from the southwest, conditions are right for a few days a month for midges to be blown across the North Sea from areas where infection has been recorded and into the eastern and southern counties.

We have been using our atmospheric dispersion model, NAME, to determine if there were any suitable occasions for infected midges to be blown from the near continent to UK.

The NAME model had been previously adapted to model wind-borne Culicoides midges to simulate the spread of bluetongue virus. It was used during the first outbreak of bluetongue in the UK in 2007 and helped in the design of targeted vaccination policies during 2008 to prevent further outbreaks.

Since bluetongue, we have been monitoring warm spells over Europe between April to November, and factoring in sunny and warm days when midges would take off. For the current Schmallenberg Virus outbreak we compiled an assessment of the highest risk areas of the UK from July to November 2011. This highlighted that all south east, south and south west coastal counties from Norfolk to Cornwall were at risk of exposure to windborne Culicoides midges from infected areas of the continent.

Many uncertainties are associated with this virus and the Met Office will continue to work closely with the AHVLA and Defra to inform their decision making. As further information becomes available, a more detailed meteorological analysis can be carried out.

Date Created
March 2012

Changes to the Met Office website

Description

Twelve months ago we asked visitors to our website how we could improve it. Six months ago we launched these improvements as a Beta website and gathered more feedback on how we could improve navigation, content and general site usability. Now we are ready to make the transition from the old website to the new.

Over the next three months you will notice some changes to the website, starting with the top level navigation on 6th March.

This organises information on our website to reflect our core areas of operation:

- **Public** – where you can find freely accessible information on weather and climate including more detail about us and weather warnings.
- **Products and services** – where you can find information about the full range of products, services and support we provide to industry, government, foreign countries and international organisations.
- **Research** – where you can find information about our scientific research, our scientists and published papers.

Initially this new navigation will be merged with our current website. However, this is only a temporary measure to ensure that no links within the site are lost and to minimise any potential disruption to visitors. It will be replaced by the completely revised website as soon as possible.

We will post regular updates on progress and what changes you can expect to see next. In the meantime please accept our apologies for any temporary inconvenience or disruption caused.

Date Created
March 2012